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John
Whitehead.

JOHN WHITEHEAD,

OF

NEW HAVEN AND BRANFORD, CONN.

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By

JAMES SHEPARD.

[Reprinted from New-Eng. Historical and Genealogical Register for April, 1901.]

Republished by the Author,
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1902.

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JOHN WHITEHEAD OF NEW HAVEN AND BRANFORD, CONN.

John Whitehead, with his brother Thomas, was brought to this country when a mere child, by Francis Hall of New Haven, at the request of Dea. George Alcocke of Roxbury, Mass., who was uncle to the Whitehead boys. According to the "Halls of New England," by Rev. David B. Hall, Francis Hall and his brother William came from Milford, County of Surrey, England, in the ship with Rev. Henry Whitefield and his party of emigrants from Kent and Surrey, who settled at Guilford, Conn. They arrived in New Haven in time for Francis Hall to attend the meeting in Mr. Newman's barn, June 4, 1639, where said Hall signed the fundamental agreement.

The first record found of the Whitehead boys is on page 60 of Hoadly's New Haven Colony Records, Vol. 1, when at a court held Dec. 1, 1641, "Itt is ordered that Goodm̄ Hall shall have liberty to dispose of the children wch. he brought ovr. till the court have light to dispose otherwise of them, provided thatt they be well looked vnto and well vsed. And Goodmā Hitchcock who is to have one of them is to pay to the Treasurer what is due for the boy and Goodm̄. Hall is to be payd out of itt whatt is due to him."

That this order relates to the Whitehead boys is shown by the next reference to them, on Feb. 1, 1647, on page 365 of the same book, as follows: "John Thompson atturney for Thomas Allcote in the Baye requirreth youthes of Francis Halle w^{ch} he brought from England long since, that is to saye John Whitehead & Thomas Whitehead, and saith he hath order to send them to the said Thomas Allcote whoe is ther vnkell.

"Francis Halle saith at the desire of their vnkell, Mr. Allcote of Roxberey, since deceased, hee brought these youthes ouer, and was at great charges with them for their passage and other occasions, w^{ch} he saith Mr. Allcote promised to paye to his satisfaction when he came heare, but when he came ther vnkell was deade, and knew not of whom to seeke his money, iff the boyes had dyed he should have lost it, for ought he knows, for he knew of no other vnkell they had, but he was blamed that he had not used that meanes to find oute ther vnkell or send to ther mother as he might have done, (thoughe he saith he hath sent,) but he acquainted the courte then wth it, and wth their approbation one of them was disposed to Mathias Hitchcoke, the other he kept himselfe till they might have further light to dispose of them.

"The court being dissierous that the chilldren might have no wronge, and also that the ptyes w^{ch} have brought them vp heitherto, (seeing they were small,) might be justly satisfyed, did seriously consider and weighe the

charges and hazards the several ptyes had bine at wth them, as also the advantages the boyes might be vnto them. And after a large debate concerning those accounts, in the issue agreed, that Thomas Whithead w^{ch} was with Mathias Hitchcocke, be at the end of 5 yeares and eight moneths from the time he had hime, sett free, at w^{ch} time the said Mathias put the said Thomas to Davide Atwatter for 4 years and 4 monethes, thoughe he had no right so to do, but now the said Thomas declaring himselfe willing to abide with his master David Atwatter, till he may heare from his vnkell, so he maye have just satisfaction for the time to come, so longe as he stayeth with hime. They bothe agreed before the courte, that he should have 3£ a yeare, meate, drinke and clothes. And concerning John Whithead, it is ordered that Francis Halle sett hime free from this time, and paye vnto him 50. S." Pope's "Pioneers of Mass.," under Thomas Alcock, says: "His sister Elizabeth Whitehead of Lemington Priors wrote him 25 (8) 1647 concerning her sons, John and Thomas Whitehead then with Francis Hall of New Haven, who formerly lived in Buckintun parish where her uncle Darbie lived." The note book of William Aspinwall is Mr. Pope's authority. This letter explains how the Alcocks were uncle to the Whitehead boys, Mrs. Whitehead being Elizabeth Alcock, sister of said Alcocks, and also shows that she was living at Lemington Priors (now Lemington) in Warwickshire, Eng., in 1647. We find a Bulkington parish but no Buckintun in Warwickshire. This location for Francis Hall casts a doubt on the statement of his English home herein before given. The letter is dated the 8th month of 1647 and as under the old style Feb. would have been the 12th month of the same year, the appearance of Mr. Alcock's attorney in New Haven was evidently the result of the said letter. George Alcock of Roxbury, who died Dec. 30, 1640, was a brother of Thomas Alcock who resided at Boston, Mass., in 1647. Francis Hall's statement that when he arrived here Mr. George Alcock was dead, is contradicted by the record, which shows that Mr. Hall was in New Haven more than a year and a half before George Alcock died; but probably Mr. Hall was negligent, and perhaps Mr. Alcock's death was the first knowledge he had of him after coming to this country. He had, no doubt, learned of Mr. Alcock's death when "he acquainted the courte" with the matter in 1641, at which time Thomas Whitehead was given to Mr. Hitchcock, while John was held by Mr. Hall and probably lived with him until freed by the court in 1647. The five years and eight months when Thomas was to be set free had more than expired when the court order of 1647 was made, and although he was to stay for a time with Mr. Atwater he probably soon left him, for, on the 7th of the following March, "David Attwater entered action against Mathias Hitchcocke for 10 £ wch the said Mathias Hitchcocke receaved of David Atwater, for the servic of Thomas Whitehead for, 4 years and eight moneths wch Mathias Hitchcocke could not perform, he not haueing a full right to dispose of the said Thomas." (Hoadly's New Haven Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 370.) What became of Thomas Whitehead is not known, and this is the last record so far found of him.

John Whitehead probably left Mr. Hall in 1647 and went to work for Mr. Jasper Crane, for, on July 4, 1648 (Hoadly, Vol. 1, page 391) we find that "John Whitehead, servant to Mr. Crane was complained of for want of a pine in the locke of his pec. His master saith it was no other defect than hath passed this 8 years and could not be mended without a

new stocke and the gunsmith said it was sufficient. The court for this time passed it without a fine but agreed that it should be mended." Although he left Mr. Hall he appears to have received only ten of the fifty shillings that the court ordered Mr. Hall to pay the said John Whitehead, for, on Feb. 6, 1648, Mr. Crane sued Francis Hall for sundry items, one of which was forty shillings "due Jno. Whitehead, his servant, wch was ordered by this court for Fran. Hall to paye" etc.

There was one Samuel Whitehead in New Haven when the first agreement was signed, Nov. 24, 1638, who remained in New Haven. There was also an Isaac Whitehead in New Haven in 1643, and a Sister Whitehead, when the meeting house was seated in 1646, but nothing is found to show any relationship between any of these Whiteheads and the Whitehead boys. The fact that they appear to have been utterly indifferent, leaving said boys to the tender mercies of Francis Hall and the Court, indicate that there was no near relationship.

John Whitehead settled in Branford, Conn., where he married Martha, daughter of Leslie Bradfield, March 9, 1661. (Branford Land Records.) According to the revised copy of the church records, John Whitehead and "Martha B. Whitehead" became members of the church in 1653, but of course her name must have been Martha Branfield at that time, thus showing that the record has been changed since 1653. He was also one of the parties to the new church covenant in 1667, and in 1669 was nominated for freeman. On Jan. 19, 1669, the Recorders court at Branford did "sentence yt the said John Whitehead shall paye or cause to be payed unto William Hoadly the sum of 15S. for ye damage that the said John Whitehead's hoges did m. William Hoadly's orcheat in eating of his apples." (Branford Land Records, Vol. 1, page 209.) John Whitehead deeds land to John Charles on May 18, 1678, to Samuel Frisbie on Jan. 19, 1669, and to Quitton Stockin on Dec. 27, 1680, but the records do not show how nor when he obtained said lands. In 1682 he, with others, made choice of their plow land in Branford. He died there before the second Monday of June, 1695, when his widow Martha exhibited the inventory of the estate to the County Court at New Haven, and was appointed administrator on his estate, and the names and ages of the eight surviving children were given as follows:

"John Whitehead,		oldest,	Hannah Whitehead,		31,
Samuel	"	23,	Mercy	"	27,
Eliphalet	"	21,	Damaris	"	25,
Thomas	"	14,	Elizabeth	"	18."

The said inventory is found in Vol. 2, of the New Haven Probate records, page 184, and amounts to £231. 14. 00. The oldest son, John, died before the estate was settled, as is shown from the following, dated the first Monday of March, 1707–8:

"Administration on the estate of John Whitehead late of Branford deceased granted to Mehitable widow relict of the decd. xxx ordered to make an inventory — by reason that her said husband, being eldest son, and Thomas Whitehead have not recd. their portions of their father's estate, John Whitehead Senr. formerly of said Branford decd. xxx The court being certified by receipts under ye hands of Peter Tiler, Benjamin Howd, William Luddington and Michael Pamer in right of their wives

that they have received their full portions of the inventoried estate of their father said John Whitehead Senior, decd., and also their portion of their brother Eliphalet Whitehead since deceased, do order that all the residue of the real inventoried estate, (except the widow's dower sett off and lands allotted to said four daughters,) be divided by three freeholders of Branford, a double share thereof to the heirs of John Whitehead, decd. son of John Whitehead Senior, and one single share to said Thomas Whitehead, and for as much as Samuel Whitehead son to sd. John Whitehead, Senr. decd. hath been absent about 8 year and not known to be living or dead, if he happen to return must be considered by an equal portion with the rest" &c. (New Haven County Court Records, Vol. 2, page 342).

The final distribution of the estate of John Whitehead, Jr., is recorded on page 496, Vol. 3, New Haven Probate Records, under date of Oct. 29, 1714, John Russell. Uzall Wardwell and Edward Frisbie, dividers, when Thomas, Samuel, Elizabeth Howd, Hannah Tyler and Mercy Luddington are given their portions direct, the remainder being given to the legal representatives of John and Damaris.

On March 16, 1707, Martha Whitehead "widdow & admin. estate of my late husband John Whitehead of Branford deseeased," deeds to her "three sons-in-law, Peter Tyler Senr. of Branford, William Luddington of East Haven, and Benjamin Howd of Branford," two thirds of the homestead, signing the deed by her mark. M. W. (Branford Land Records, Vol. 2, p. 203.) On March 1, 1707–8, she deeds land to her son-in-law Micah Pamer "for part of his wife's portion." (Vol. 3, p. 34.) On Jan. 3, 1708, "John and Thomas Whitehead, Peter Tyler, Senr., in the right of Hannah his wife, Micah Pamer in right of Damaris his wife, and Benjamin Howd in right of Elizabeth his wife, all of Branford, and William Luddington of New Haven in right of Mary his wife, in consideration of our near Love, Good will and Dutifull affection to our Dear Mother Martha Whitehead," deed her their right in the house &c. (Vol. 3, p. 78). This deed, in connection with the Court order before noted, shows that John Whitehead, Jr., was living on Jan. 3, 1707–8, and died before March 7 of the same year.

On May 21, 1778, Martha Whitehead deeds land to Hannah Tyler, in "Consideration of the great care and relief which I have had from my Daughter Hannah In my long weak desolate condition" (Vol. 3, p. 100); and on Dec. 4, 1711, she deeds land to her son Thomas. Several other deeds appear of record from Martha Whitehead.

The names of the children appear both in the land and Church records of Branford, the date of the baptism, with one exception, being the same as the date of the birth.

Children of John Whitehead, Sen.:

i. Mary, b. May 6, 1662. Not included in the names of children appended to the inventory of her father's estate in 1695.

ii. Hannah, b. March 10, 1664; m. Peter Tyler, Senr., of Branford, Conn., Dec. 25, 1688, as second wife. Said Tyler m. 1st, Deborah Swain, Nov. 29, 1671.

iii. John, b. Feb. 20, 1665–6; m. Mehitable, dau. of Stephen and Tabitha (Wilkinson) Bishop, Aug. 9, 1704. He died before the first Monday in March, 1707–8, when his estate was probated at New Haven.

iv. Martha, b. Jan. 10, 1667–8; name afterwards changed to Mercy; m. William Luddington of Iron Works farms, East Haven, Conn., June, 1690, as second wife. His first wife was Martha Rose. He died in Feb. 1737. Widow Mercy Luddington died Nov. 23, 1743, aged 75. (Dodd's History of East Haven.) This death record identifies her as the Martha born 1668, rather than the Mary born 1662.

v. Damaris, b. Jan. 20, 1669–70, m. Micah Pamer of Branford, Conn., Feb. 14, 1693; died before Oct. 29, 1714.

vi. Samuel, born Nov. 24, 1672. Had been absent about eight years in 1708, and "not known to be living," but was included in the distribution of his brother John's estate, in 1714.

vii. Eliphalet, b. Sep. 27, 1674; died after second Monday in June, [10th], 1695, and before first Monday in March [1st], 1707–8, leaving no issue.

viii. Elizabeth, b. Oct., 1677; m. Benjamin Howd of Branford, Conn., Oct. 1, 1705.

ix. Thomas, b. Feb. 27, 1680–1.

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